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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2006

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**MODESTO RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING
AND RECEIVING IMAGES OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Agrees to Prison Term of at Least 17 ½ years and 15 years of Supervised Release

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that WALTER JOHN KEMIC, 53, of Modesto, California pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger to one count of distributing and receiving visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. He agreed his sentence will include a prison term in the range of 17 ½ to 19 ½ years followed by a term of supervised release of 15 years.

The case began in December 2005 when investigators with the Queensland State Police in Australia, while conducting an undercover operation, received images of child sexual exploitation from an individual believed to be in the United States. Those investigators contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Additional investigation conducted by FBI Agents in Modesto and Stockton confirmed that KEMIC engaged in online chat sessions, and transmitted images via a digital file-sharing program. During at least one chat session KEMIC expressed his sexual interest in young children to whom he had access in Modesto.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, KEMIC admitted, as part of his plea, that from approximately September 2005 through November 18, 2005 he used a computer and modem to distribute and receive, by use of the Internet, visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. The distribution involved material depicting prepubescent minors as well as images of minors engaged in sadistic or masochistic conduct or other violence. The defendant admitted that he transmitted the images to at least one person outside of the United States, including an individual in Australia. KEMIC also admitted that he sent images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct with the expectation of receiving similar images from other people.

United States Attorney Scott commented: "Three weeks after a predator on the Internet sent sexually explicit images of children to a law enforcement officer in Australia, the suspect was fully identified, indicted, arrested, and detained. This demonstrates that law enforcement worldwide has made it the highest priority to remove from society those who seek to harm children."

KEMIC will be sentenced on November 13, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. He faces a maximum prison term of 20 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a lifetime term of supervised release. He has been detained in federal custody, as both a danger to the community and a risk of flight, since his arrest on December 22, 2005.

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